



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

September 29, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT – RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING FOR JUVENILE EDUCATION SYSTEM REFORM (ITEM 11, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2009)

On September 8, 2009, your Board approved sending a five-signature letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, the Assembly Speaker, and the Senate President pro tempore supporting legislation to allow California to compete for Race to the Top (RTTT) funding provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Your Board further instructed the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Chief Probation Officer and the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and report back to the Board within 14 days as to how RTTT funding could benefit efforts to reform education in the juvenile justice system, particularly implementation of one dependent charter school for girls and one independent charter school for boys, as previously ordered by the Board.

On September 10, 2009, a five-signature letter (Attachment I) was sent to Governor Schwarzenegger and the Senate President pro tempore supporting legislation to allow California to compete for RTTT funding.

RTTT Purpose

The ARRA provides \$4.35 billion for the RTTT fund, which is a competitive grant program designed to encourage and reward states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform, achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, and implementing ambitious plans in the following four core educational reform areas:

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- Adopting internationally-benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace;
- Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding effective teachers and principals;
- Developing data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals of how they can improve their practices; and
- Turning around lowest-performing schools.

RTTT Eligibility

There are many qualifications that the states must meet to be eligible for RTTT funding, and it is our understanding that the Governor and Legislature are working to ensure California is eligible to receive these funds. However, it is important to note the following: (1) funds provided under RTTT are one-time; (2) states must sub-grant at least 50 percent of the funds to Local Education Agencies (LEA), including public charter schools, based on the LEA current share of funding received under Part A of Title I of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and (3) states may use the remaining 50 percent for state-level activities and for disbursements to LEA, and other eligible entities, based on formulas, competitive processes, or other mechanisms as specified in the state's plan. Therefore, to be eligible for these funds, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) must already receive Title I funding and agree to use RTTT funds to implement and support California's proposed plan.

The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that California could qualify for approximately \$500 million to \$1 billion in RTTT funds depending on the number of states that apply and other qualifying factors.

RTTT Benefits to Education Reform in the Juvenile Justice System

Many of the 35 recommendations included in the October 14, 2008, Education Reform report require ongoing funding. Once the RTTT one-time funds are fully expended, an ongoing funding source would need to be identified in order to maintain these programs. However, the Probation Department (Probation) and LACOE believe RTTT one-time funds would benefit their efforts by accelerating the implementation of those recommendations. Below is a list of the potential benefits.

RTTT Area #1: Adopting internationally-benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

- RTTT funds would assist with the implementation of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) to conduct comprehensive assessments of youth, support students having access to standards-based curriculum, and provide students with the services necessary for them to successfully transition back into their communities. ***Education Reform Recommendation #2*** (Ongoing).
- RTTT funds would assist in developing strategies to increase parent or caregiver involvement and educate and train parents about the juvenile justice system and their educational rights while detained. ***Education Reform Recommendation #3*** (One-time for production of DVDs/materials; Ongoing for parent training)
- RTTT funds would provide funding to assist with the establishment of a comprehensive assessment center at each of the County's three juvenile halls, which could improve juvenile detention. ***Education Reform Recommendation #12*** (One-time)
- RTTT funds would be used to develop and implement an integrated behavior management system using research-based behavioral intervention programs from special education and would greatly enhance the student's ability to access the Juvenile Court School (JCS) curricula and unify our behavior expectations and responses for all students. ***Education Reform Recommendation #24*** (Ongoing)

RTTT Area #2: Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding effective teachers and principals.

- RTTT funds would be used to provide LACOE JCS teachers with more training in thematic, collaborative problem-based experiential learning activities, as well as cross-training in the Career Technical Education (CTE) programs and would train LACOE teachers and Probation staff on Evidence-Based Practices core training in Motivational Interviewing and Core Correctional Practices. ***Education Reform Recommendations #21 and #31*** (Ongoing)

RTTT Area #3: Developing data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practices.

- RTTT funds would be used to develop, implement, and continuously improve performance measurement systems to establish accountability for all participants in the educational system for youth in the juvenile halls and camps. **Education Reform Recommendations #7 and #34**
- RTTT funds would assist with the development of the necessary quality assurance protocols and provide additional Probation and LACOE staffing to provide quality assurance over the implementation of MDT assessments and case planning processes and their associated results in terms of probation youth completing the education component of their case plans. **Education Reform Recommendation #14** (Ongoing)
- RTTT funds would be used to support Probation's and LACOE's efforts to accelerate electronic data exchange and thereby improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the MDT assessment and case planning processes. **Education Reform Recommendation #15** (One-time)

<i>RTTT Area #4: Turning around lowest-performing schools.</i>

- RTTT funding would be used to provide additional Operation READ tutors and LACOE teachers for the two specialized JCS for ninth through twelfth grades curricula, as well as provide resources to improve math skills of youth in juvenile halls and camps by implementing the use of a math program. **Education Reform Recommendation #19** (Ongoing)
- RTTT funding would be used to assist with some of the costs for conversion to a dependant and independent charter school for girls and boys, respectively if the Education Code is changed to eliminate the existing barriers to implementing charter schools in JCS. **Education Reform Recommendation #22** (Ongoing)
- RTTT funding would be used to hire contract providers to assist in preparing probation youth for employment (and further education) in their transition back to the community. In addition, funds would be used to support transitional education placement in regional education centers housed at some of the 40 WorkSource/One-Stop Centers in the County. **Education Reform Recommendation #22** (Ongoing)
- RTTT funding would be used to enable LACOE to update/upgrade existing classroom computers and increase the number of instructional computers available in the classrooms and in other secure areas of juvenile halls and camps where

Each Supervisor
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students could use them for homework and other after school and weekend instruction, such as Operation READ and math tutoring. ***Education Reform Recommendation #29*** (One-time)

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy Chief Executive Officer Brence Culp, Public Safety, at (213) 893-2374.

WTF:SRH:BKC
SW:VC:cc/llm

Attachment

c: Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Robert Kalunian, Acting County Counsel
Wendy L. Watanabe, Auditor-Controller
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Dr. Darline P. Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education



SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383
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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

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DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

September 10, 2009

The Honorable Karen Bass, Speaker
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Madam Speaker:

We respectfully urge your support for legislation that would allow California to qualify for Federal Race to the Top Program funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This program provides \$4.35 billion in one-time Federal funding for competitive grants to reform education and improve student outcomes by linking teacher performance to student achievement, supporting innovative models such as charter schools, developing data systems to measure student success, recruiting and retaining effective teachers and principals, and improving the lowest performing schools.

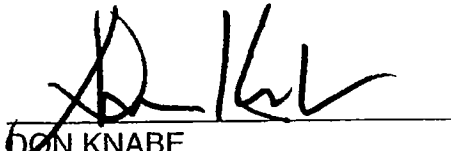
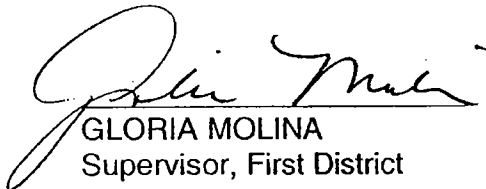

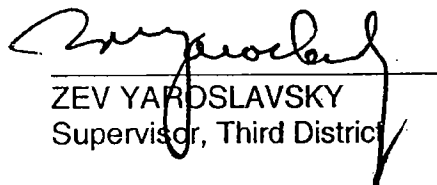
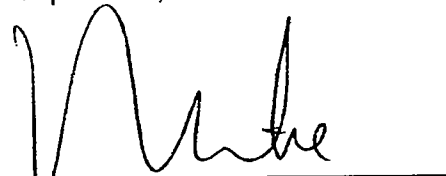
There is an overwhelming need for reform and a change in the approach to education. This is particularly true for thousands of students who attend juvenile camp schools and community day schools and who face significant academic and personal challenges. The Race to the Top Program is designed to reach these type of students.

California is currently not eligible to apply for Race to the Top funds; however, the Governor has called the Legislature into a Special Session to make the needed changes in law to ensure that California is eligible to compete for these funds. We strongly support this legislation with provisions that would permit the use of Race to the Top funds to reform the juvenile justice education system including the establishment of charter schools. These reforms will help enhance the quality of education for youth in the juvenile justice system and improve their options for becoming successful, productive citizens.

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
September 10, 2009
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Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important issue.

Sincerely,


DON KNABE
Chairman of the Board
Supervisor, Fourth District
GLORIA MOLINA
Supervisor, First District
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Supervisor, Third District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor, Fifth District